

Please accept this submission as a testimony to the importance of Video Relay Service.

I was adversely impacted by the cut in the rate for VRS -- the recruitment and maintenance of qualified interpreters as well as ensuring effective and efficient VRS features (clear video screen, accessible easy-to-understand tools for use of VRS) cannot be ensured without appropriate rates and the implementation of appropriate regulatory requirements.

As a consumer who is deaf and a native sign language user, I see the VRS as functionally equivalent to the telephone and respectfully request that you and the FCC do the right thing and safeguard my rights as well as the rights of 42 million other deaf and hard of hearing individuals in our nation. Qualified interpreters are extremely hard to find and without such interpreters in place, the VRS is a sham. Only appropriate rates of \$14 can we ensure the VRS is a valid tool of access for the community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions.

Thanks,

Suzy Rosen Singleton